[Shri Jagdish Jani]
attention of the government to the serious unemployment problem of the educated tribal and Harijan youths in Orissa. The Tribals and Harijans are the most neglected section in our society. They are not only economically poor but also educationally backward. Even fortyfive years after independence they don't get a square meal a day. The conditions of these people have not improved, in spite of the fact that many developmental programmes have been implemented in their name.

Madam, in spite of severe financial and social hardships the tribal youths are getting educated with the hope of getting government jobs. But unfortunately the hopes of these educated youths are shatatered, because they donot get any suitbale job. They have developed a sense of frustration.

Madam, the arbitrary and wrong policies of the government of Orissa towards these educated SC and ST youths have only added to their frustration. After registering their names in the State Employment Exchanges these youths wait endlessly for getting an employment.

Recently the government of Orissa has started an employment scheme under which educated unemployed youths are being given appointment as "Educational Workers" with a monthly salary of Rs. 400/. But unfortunately no Tribal or Harijan youth is getting employment under this scheme.

Madam, in order to solve the problem of unemployment of these SC, ST youths, I have two proposals before the government. Firstly, all the class IV Posts in government should be kept reserved for only SC and ST Candidates. Secondly, separate Employment Exchange should be opened in each and every district exclusively for recruiting SC and ST candidates for various government jobs.

Madam, I firmly believe that if these two proposals are implemented sincerely the unemployment problem of the Tribal and Harijan youths will be solved to a great extent.

Thank you.

Non-fulfilment of promise by Government in providing relief to handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, at the outset I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to make a Special Mention on the problems of the starving handloom weavers, particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, the hon. Minister of Textiles has announced on 4th December, 1991, in reply to a Calling Attention Motion on the starvation deaths of handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh that ex-gratia at the rate of Rs. 5,000 would be paid to each of the deceased families. As against over 200 starvation deaths which have been confirmed by an investigation team of the 'Front Line' of 'the Hindu', includig a doctor, ex gratia was paid to only 72 families stating that all others died in the month of November and December, 1991 and that they did not die before the end of October, 1991. I do not know the mind of the Government in rejecting the promised help to the deceased families. It was unfortunate that the head of the Andhra Pradesh Congress (I) Government stated that some died by consuming liquor which is far from the truth. And the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has conveniently forgotten the fact that hundreds of people died in Delhi after consuming ilicit liquor. Ex-gratia payment at the rate of Rs. 10,000 was made to all the affected families. It is too difficult for some wealthy people to understand the consequences of semi-starvation and starvation of the poor people.

It was also stated that SIMA (South India Millowners' Association) would supply yarn of 4000 bales of 400 lbs each every month at pre-budget prices for the affected handloom weavers. But only 300 bales were supplied for December 1991 and further supplies were stopped on the ground that cotton prices were not

within the reach of the mills and they demanded import of ten lakh bales of cotton free of customs duty. The Government immediately responded and allowed import of cotton free of customs duty without paying heed to the representations of handloom weavers that import of cotton should be linked up with stabilisation of yarn prices. The prices of yarn have further gone up by Rs. 50/- to Rs. 100/- per bundle of 10 lbs of fine and superfine counts after December 1991. The Governments are silent spectators to the sufferings of the handloom weavers.

The hon. Minister also announced insurance cover to 12000 affected handloom weavers to be paid compensation of Rs. 10,000 provided they die by 31st March, 1993. There is no such approved scheme of L.I.C. The Government of India shall contribute Rs. 7.2 lakhs and an equal amount to be contributed by the State Government. The State Government has refused to pay its share. What will be the result of the scheme? 144 weavers must die before 31st March 1993 to receive the compensation of Rs. 10,000 each; otherwise the amount of Rs. 14.40 lakhs contributed by the Central and State Governments with compound interest thereon will be appropriate by the L.I.C.

More than 22000 handloom weavers have been identified in Guntur and Prakasam districts alone eligible for consumption loans. But only 2000 weavers got loans of Rs. 1000/- each from commercial banks at an interest rate of 11.5 per cent and no loans were given to the other 20000 identified weavers. Normally it should be possible for the Government to get production-oriented loans of Rs. 5000/- to each sanctioned from the nationalised banks under D.I.R. scheme. Despite representations, nothing has been done in that direction.

There is a provison of Rs. 6 crores in the 1991-92 Budget to give support to the prices of cotton. But no need has arisen to support the prices of cotton, as the ruling rates of cotton are more than the support price. Further, the Government has spent on an average per year Rs. 13 crores for rehabilitation of displaced textile workers. Why not similar treatment be given to displaced handloom weavers? Cannot the Government of India find funds of at least Rs. 2 crores to distribute interest-free consumption loans of Rs. 1000/- to each identified handloom weaver? When yarn cannot be supplied at reasonable rate, the Government can get their requirements of textiles in its consuming departments produced on handlooms for the co-operatives or under corporations or by starting production centres in the country. I suggest yarn to be supplied, both grey and coloured, healds, reeds, dobbies and jacquards etc. to be supplied free of cost, minimum wages to be paid to weavers, woven cloth to be taken over by the Government after allowing a margin of 10 per cent as profit to the producing agency, cooperative or a corporation or by the producer in the private sector. It has been categorically stated that the object of setting up the All-India Handloom Board is to utilise the handloom industry to eradicate unemployment and increase employment avenues in the country, by producing more cloth on handlooms.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kotaiah, you have taken...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, please permit him. This is a very serious matter. They are reeing under debt. There is no reaction from the Government.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Madam, kindly give me two-three minutes more.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Kotaiah does not rise too often.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he is brief, I will be thankful.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: As is known to all, the Janata Cloth Scheme is intended to make available to the identified consumers cloth at very cheap rates. In order to achieve this objective, the Government is allowing subsidy to consumers on the sale of Janata cloth. Further, the services of the unemployed handloom weavers are being utilised, paying very low wages. The writ of the handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh asking for at least payment of minimum wages for production of Janata cloth has been pending with the Supreme Court of India from 1986 onwards. It has been admitted, but it has not come up for hearing. The poor man has no place there also. Perhaps, in this country, the poor man has a place only in the burial ground.

The Government announced additional production of 50 lakh sq. metres of Janata Cloth and stated that It would provide sustained employment to 24,000 handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh, for a period of four months. When we convert this 50 lakh sq. metres into pairs of sarees and dhoties, we will get 4.5 lakhs pairs. The wage per pair is Rs. 11.60. The total wage for producing the targeted quantity will come to Rs. 592.52 per family with one loom. (4.5 lakhs x Rs. 11.60/24,000.) This will be the wage for four months. Per month, it will be Rs. 148.13 . Each family, consisting of four-five members, including children, will get Rs. 148.13 per month. This will be the result of the scheme, provided it is implemented.

The most important thing for the survival of the handloom industry is reservation of certain items of cloth for handloom industry. As promised, the Congress(I) Government, under the leadership of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, enacted a legislation in the year 1985, and a notification was issued on 11th March, 1986, reserving certain items of cloth for handloom industry. But the operation of the Act and the notificaton were stayed by the Supreme Court of India in the year 1986. The stay is still continuing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kotaiah, the rest of the papers you can give to the Minister. He is sitting here.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Just half-a-minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can hand it over to him.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Madam, the Government of India, in August, 1990, introduced a Constitution (Amendment) Bill (No. 73) for the purpose of including the Handloom Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. But it is not understandable why the Bill was not taken up for consideration and adoption, despite repeated representations in this regard.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kotaiah, you have taken about fifteen minutes. You can give all these documents to the Minister concerned. I am sure the Minister will look into this matter sympathetically because it is a very serious matter.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, please give him some more time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has spoken enough.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I have one request to make. I think, the hon. Minister should come forward with a comprehensive response, in the form of a statement, to the submissions made by Mr. Kotaiah. It is a burning problem. It is a matter of life and death in Andhra Pradesh, and elsewhere too. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is almost a murder of the weaver community in Andhra Pradesh.

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : मैडम क्या, क्या हुआ .... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी खड़े हुए हैं, उनको बोलने तो दीजिए ।

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will he make a commitment

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Government has not done anything.

उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये । आपने उनको इतना डरा दिया है ।

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : वह डरने वाले हैं, लेकिन उनको इतना डरना भी नहीं चाहिए ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम फजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं आपके माध्यम से यह बताना चाहता कि सिर्फ आंध्र प्रदेश में ही नहीं, बल्कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बहार के अंदर भी वीवर्स की बहुत बुरी हालत है।

तकरीबन तमाम स्टेट्स में इस वक्त वीवर्स की बहुत बुरी हालत है और उस पर हमारे मंत्री जी को तवज्जह देनी चाहिए। बल्कि वहज पहले भी इस हाउस के अंदर एसोरेंस दे चुके हैं । ... (**व्यवधान**)

†[شری محمد افضل عرف م. افضل:

میں آپ کے مادھیم سے یہ بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ صرف آندھرا پردیش میں ہی نہیں بلکہ اتر پردیش اور بہار کے اندر بھی ویورس کی بہت بری حالت ہے -

تقریباً تمام اسٹیشن میں اس وقت ویورس کی بہت بری حالت ہے اور اس پر ہمارے منتری جی کو توجہ دینی چاہئے باکی رہا پہلے بھی اس ہاؤس کے اندر ایشورنس دے چکے ہیں .... (مداخلت) ...]

SHRI YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): The Minister visited those parts on 20th January...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting anybody else. Please take your seat. The Minister has heard it. Mr. Kotaiah spoke for ten minutes. He has explained. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Narayanasamy, will you please sit down? I am not permitting yoo, please take your seat. You can not associate with every problem in this iountry. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Kotaiah, will you sit down? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): It is a very serious problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is a very serious problem.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: I do not understand why this Government is not answering the questions...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: MR. Kotaiah, take your seat. The Minister is here. I would like you to give him all your papers and discuss the matter with him. I am sure, he is going to take these matters seriously. (*Interruptions*). That is over now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Minister was ready to respond. You should not staind in his way.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not standing in the way. I am sitting, I am not standing in his way. When the Minister wants to respond, the Members gets up. (*Interruptions*). Now please sit down. That is better. (*Interruptions*). Yes, Mr. Minister.

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्री अशोक गहलोत : माननीय प्रागदा कोटैया जी और अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने जो भावना प्रकट की है, मुझे मालूम है कि लास्ट टाइम यहां जब डिबेट हुई थी तब भी यह सवाल उठा था और उसके बाद यहां मैंने हाउस में यह बात कही थी कि मैं खेद वहां जरूर जाऊंगा आँन दि स्पॉट स्टडी करने के लिए । मैं खुद गया कृष्णा, गन्टुर और प्रकासम् डिस्ट्रक्टमें और वहां के वीवर्स की जो हालत है, उससे मैं खुद वाकिफ हुआ । माननीय सदस्य जो उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आज वी वर्स की जो स्थिति कंट्री में है उसके बारे में हम कह चुके हैं कि हमने नम्बर आफ स्कीम्स बनाई हैं, एक टर्म और डाल रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एस० जयपाल रेड्डी : बजट के बाद उनकी स्थिति और खराब हो गई है।

श्री अशोक गहलोत : अभी जो हमने दो लाख बेल्स कॉटन की इम्पोर्ट करने की बात की, वह एक्सक्ल्यूसिवली हैंडलूम वीवर्स के लिए होगी । हमारी कोशिश है कि उन बुनकरों की उनका धागा सस्ती कीमत पर मिल सके । उनकी जो अन्य समस्याएं हैं उनके ऊपर हम पूरी तरह से गौर कर रहे हैं । सरकारी प्रियारिटी में है कि हैंडलूम वीवर्स की जो समस्याएं हैं, उनका कैसे समाधान हो ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said that what we mentioned ...(*Interruptions*). The matter is closed. (*Interruptions*). He said, that what cotton is being imported, it is for the handloom weavers.

Yes, Shri Sanjaya Sinh.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): You may close the issue, but the handloom weavers will continue to die, will continue to starve. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kotaiah, don't take advantage of anything. Now please take your seat, please sit down.

Difficulties caused to T.V. Manufacturers due to Budget Proposal

DR. SANJAYA SINH (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, it is understood that because of the budget proposals on partial convertibility and withdrawal of some benefits enjoyed by the TV exporters, their competitiveness with China in the Western markets would be adversely affected, resulting in the loss of export of TV sets worth Rs. 500 crores.

The TV manufacturers are faced with the dilemma of incurring huge losses of they fulfil the commitments for exports already entered into and in case they do not fulfil their commitments they would lose their credibility in the international market, resulting in loss of complete export market.

The budget proposals to increase excise duty by 5 per cent and further five per cent on raw materials like plastics would also lead to an increase in the price of TVs by about Rs. 75 to Rs. 100 in case of black and white TV sets and the price of colour TV sets would go up by about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500. This would further pull down the sales resulting in the closure of many more units. It is not clear how the budget proposals would benefit the industry.

So, Madam, I would like to request the Government through you that the Government should look into this matter seriously and try to revise the budget proposals, if possible, so that the TV industry could flourish day by day.

Need for taking care of victims of fire in jhuggis near Vijay Ghat, New Delhi

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार) : महोदया, आपके द्वारा मैं सरकार का ध्यान कल दिल्ली के एक हिस्से में लगी भयानक आग की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं ।